

Please insert the following claims 29 – 40:

29. [New] In combination:

- (a) a U-beam top joint, comprising:
  - (i) a side U-beam having a first surface;
  - (ii) a side bracket beam; and
  - (iii) a pair of spaced inward facing lumber leg support surfaces joining the side U-beam and side bracket beam together, each inward facing lumber leg support surface dimensioned to accept a lumber leg between the support surface, the side U-beam and the side bracket beam and positioned at a predetermined angle with respect to the first surface;
- (b) a U-beam splay bar, comprising:
  - (i) a pair of opposed outward facing lumber leg guiding surfaces; and
  - (ii) a connecting member extending longitudinally between the lumber leg guiding surfaces and connecting them together, the outwardly facing lumber leg guiding surfaces positioned at the pre-determined angle with respect to the longitudinal axis of the connecting member;

wherein a pair of lumber legs may be positioned between respective inward facing lumber leg support surfaces and between the side U-beam and side bracket beam of the U-beam top joint and adjacent the outward facing guiding surfaces of the U-beam splay bar so that first ends of the lumber legs adjacent the U-beam top joint are forced toward each other when the U-beam splay bar is moved in the direction of the U-beam top joint to force the lumber legs to pivot about the inward facing lumber leg support surfaces.

30. [New] The combination of Claim 29 wherein side enclosing brackets are affixed to the side U-beam of the U-beam top joint.

31. [New] The combination of Claim 29 wherein side enclosing brackets are affixed to a side of the U-beam splay bar.

32. [New] The combination of Claim 29 wherein side enclosing brackets are affixed to the side U-beam of the U-beam top joint and side enclosing brackets are affixed to a side of the U-beam splay bar.

33. [New] The combination of claim 29 further comprising a pair of spaced opposed flanks extending outwardly from each guiding surface in parallel alignment, each pair of flanks and respective guiding surfaces dimensioned to accept a lumber leg between respective flanks and the guiding surface.

34. [New] The combination of Claim 33 wherein each flank extends in a perpendicular direction with respect to the outward facing lumber leg guiding surface.

35. [New] The combination of Claim 33 in which the flanks include holes through which a nail may be inserted into a lumber leg.

36. [New] The combination of claim 29 wherein a lumber top member is interposed between the lumber leg first ends and the first ends of the lumber legs apply pressure against the lumber top member when the U-beam splay bar is moved toward the U-beam top joint.

37. [New] The combination of Claim 29 wherein the U-beam top joint further comprises an axial slot dimensioned to accept a lumber member therein to extend axially in the direction of the longitudinal axis of the side U-beam.

38. [New] The combination of Claim 37 wherein the axial slot is positioned on the side bracket beam.

39. [New] The combination of Claim 37 wherein the axial slot is positioned on the side U-beam.

40. [New] The combination of Claim 29 wherein the U-beam splay bar further comprises an axial slot dimensioned to accept a lumber member therein to extend axially in the direction of the longitudinal axis of the U-beam splay bar.

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In the Specification

On Page 11, line 4 delete "side" and substitute -- end --.

On Page 11, line 7 delete "top" and substitute -- side --.

On Page 11, line 10, delete "isometric perspective" and substitute -- top view --.

On Page 13, line 21 add -- 54 -- after "gripping means".

On Page 13, line 23 delete "Figure 3" and substitute -- Figure 4 --.

On Page 14, line 3 delete "Figure 2" and substitute -- Figure 3 --.

On Page 15, Line 7 add -- 55 -- after "splay bar".

On Page 15, line 15 add -- 54 -- after "gripping means".

On Page 15, line 16 delete "U-beams" and substitute -- U-beam 1 --.

On Page 16, line 3 add -- 54 -- after "gripping means".

On Page 16, line 6 add -- 55 -- after "splay bar".

On Page 16, line 10 add -- 54 -- after "gripping means".

On Page 16, line 12 add -- 55 -- after "bar".

On Page 16, line 13 add -- 54 -- after "top joint" and add -- 55 -- after "splay bar".

On Page 16, line 17 add -- 55 -- after "splay bar".

On Page 16, line 18 delete "outer".

On Page 16, line 19 delete "outer" and add -- 16 and 17 -- after "end brackets".

On Page 16, line 21 delete "the" (second occurrence) and add -- 19, 20 and 46, 47 -- after "flanks".

On Page 16, line 22 delete "surface" and substitute -- surfaces 18 and 48 --.

On Page 16, Line 23 add -- 19, 20 and 46, 47 -- after "flanks".

On Page 17, line 1 add -- 55 -- after "splay bar".

On Page 17, line 5 add -- 54 -- after "gripping means".

On Page 17, line 6 add -- 55 -- after "splay bar".

On Page 17, line 10 add -- 54 -- after "gripping means".

On Page 17, line 17 add -- 55 -- after "splay bar".

On Page 17, line 19 add -- 18 and 48 -- after "guiding surfaces".

On Page 17, line 21 add -- 55 -- after "splay bar".

On Page 17, line 22 add -- 6 and 9 -- after "pivot surfaces".

On Page 17, line 23 add -- 54 -- after "gripping means".

On Page 18, line 2 add -- 55 -- after "splay bar".

On Page 18, line 10 add -- 50 -- after "gripping means".

On Page 18, line 11 add -- 52 and 53 -- after "lumber legs" and add -- 51 -- after "splay bar".

On Page 21, line 6 delete "the angled gripping joint combination, with" and substitute -- a plurality of U-beam top joints 54 and U-beam splay bars 55. --, delete "a" and substitute -- A --.

On Page 21, line 7 delete "extending" and substitute -- extends --.

On page 21, line 19 delete "200" and substitute -- 220 --.

On Page 21, line 20 delete "the angled gripping joint" and substitute -- U-beam splay bars 216, 217, 218, 219 --.

On Page 21, line 21 delete "combination".

On Page 22, line 8 add -- 54 -- after "gripping means".

On Page 22, line 11 add -- 55 -- after "splay bar".